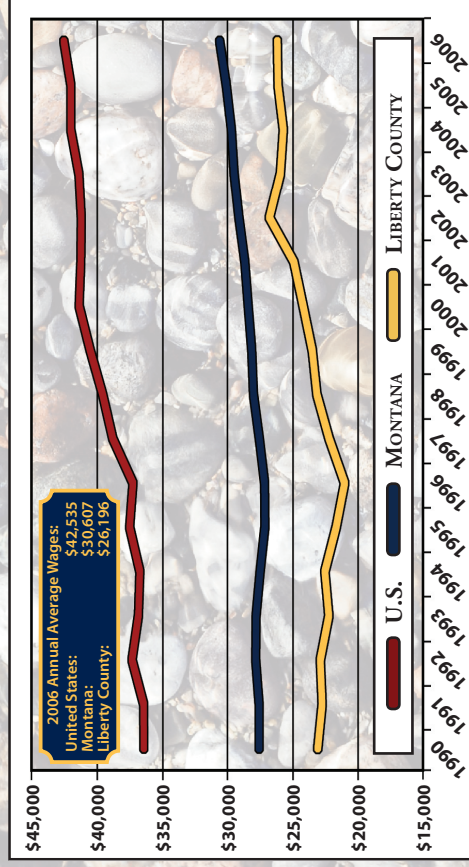


Annual Average Labor Force - Liberty County

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2006	819	794	25	3.1%
2005	866	829	37	4.3%
2004	875	841	34	3.9%
2003	842	809	33	3.9%
2002	831	798	33	4.0%
2001	888	854	34	3.8%
2000	964	923	41	4.3%

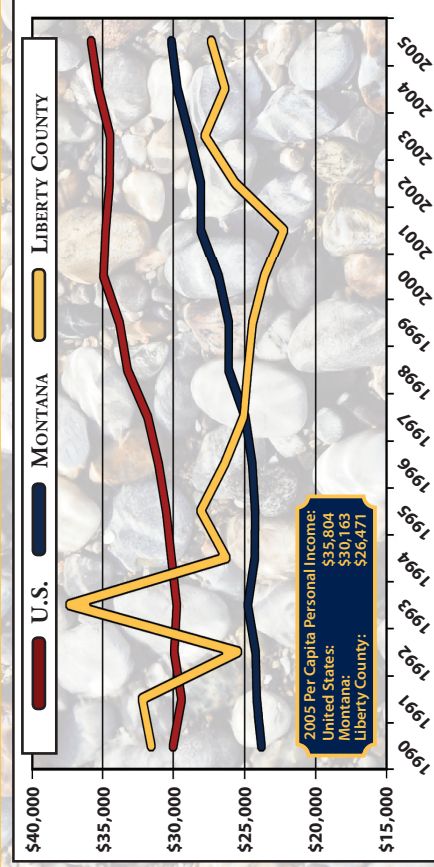
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2006 (In 2006 Dollars)



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

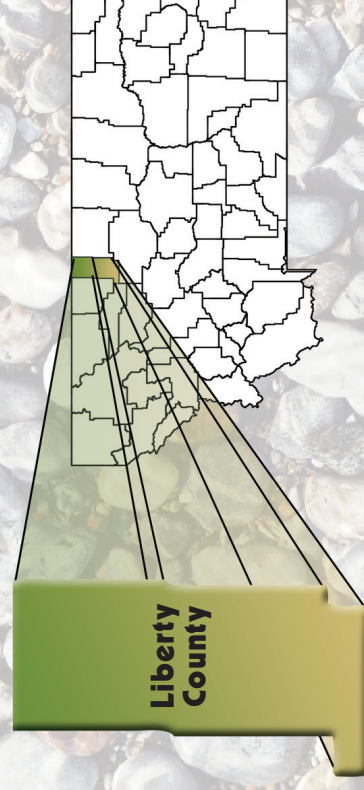
Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2005 (In 2006 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

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Demographic & Economic Information for Liberty County



RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

Research & Analysis Bureau - Montana Department of Labor & Industry
 P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59624-1728 - Ph: (406) 444-2430
 or Toll-Free: (800) 541-3904 - Fax: (406) 444-2638
 E-mail: webmaster@mtl.gov Website: www.ourfactsofthefuture.org



Census and Economic Information Center - Montana Department of Commerce
 P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2740 - Fax: (406) 841-2731
 E-mail: ceic@mt.gov Website: www.ceic.mt.gov

LIBERTY COUNTY

Liberty County is Montana's forty-sixth most populous county, with an estimated 1,863 residents as of July 1st, 2006. Chester, the county seat, is the state's sixty-eighth largest town, with a population estimated at 757 in 2006.¹ Other towns in Liberty County include Joplin, Lothair, and Whitlash.

Liberty County is located on Montana's Hi-Line between Hill and Toole Counties, and borders Canada to the north and Choteau County to the south. The Sweet Grass Hills line the north side of the county, while the south is marked by the Tiber Dam on the Marias River. A large portion of Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir) lies within Liberty County, and provides boating, camping, and fishing opportunities to visitors. The area offers 178 miles of shoreline, a marina, and five boat ramps at various points around the lake.²

Other area attractions include the Liberty County Museum and the Liberty Village Arts Center, both located in Chester. Chester also boasts the Liberty County Hospital and Nursing Home, the only medical facility in a 40 mile radius.³

¹U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

²www.visitmt.com/categories/City.asp?City=LOTHAIR&SiteID=1

³www.comehomemontana.org/viewinfo.php?town=liberty_county

Resources for Liberty County

Chamber of Commerce

**Liberty County
Chamber of Commerce**
30 Main Street
Chester, MT 59522
(406) 759-4848
www.libertycountyycc.com

Newspaper

Liberty County Times
46 First Street East
P. O. Box 689
Chester, MT 59522
Ph: (406) 759-5355
E-mail: lcetimes@3rivers.net
<http://highline.townnews.com>

Job Service Workforce Center

Havey Job Service Workforce Center
160 First Avenue
Havey, MT 59501
Phone: (406) 265-5847
Toll Free: (866)-288-9642
Fax: (406) 265-1386
<http://wvsd.dli.mt.gov/local/havey>

Economic Development

MSU Extension Service
P. O. Box 607
Chester, MT 59522-0607
Ph: (406) 759-5625
Fax: (406) 759-5996
jmaatta@montana.edu

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2006 (continued)

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	6	16	\$48,387
Credit intermediation & related activity	2	*	*
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	1	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	3	4	\$34,807
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	2	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	4	7	\$14,882
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	2	*	*
Administrative and support services	1	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	1	*	*
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	1	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	3	*	*
Ambulatory health care services	2	*	*
Hospitals	1	*	*
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	5	10	\$11,656
Performing arts and spectator sports	1	*	*
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	2	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	2	*	*
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	6	20	\$7,060
Accommodation	1	*	*
Food services and drinking places	5	*	*
OTHER SERVICES	10	21	\$12,125
Repair and maintenance	3	4	\$28,452
Personal and laundry services	1	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	5	15	\$6,955
Private households	1	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17	148	\$24,875
Local Government	7	118	\$21,957
State Government	3	5	\$34,676
Federal Government	7	25	\$36,658

The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2006

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	92	563	\$26,176
TOTAL PRIVATE	75	415	\$26,641
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	9	30	\$24,447
Crop production	3	7	\$33,088
Animal production	2	*	*
Agriculture & forestry support	4	*	*
MINING	1	*	*
UTILITIES	1	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	4	*	*
Construction of buildings	2	*	*
Specialty trade contractors	2	*	*
MANUFACTURING	2	*	*
Food manufacturing	1	*	*
Machinery manufacturing	1	*	*
WHOLESALE TRADE	4	11	\$31,499
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	1	*	*
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	3	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	12	59	\$15,147
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	3	6	\$12,892
Building material & garden supply stores	2	*	*
Food and beverage stores	3	37	\$12,993
Health and personal care stores	1	*	*
Gasoline stations	1	*	*
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	1	*	*
Miscellaneous store retailers	1	*	*
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	3	12	\$13,961
Truck transportation	2	*	*
Transit and ground passenger transport	1	*	*
INFORMATION	1	*	*

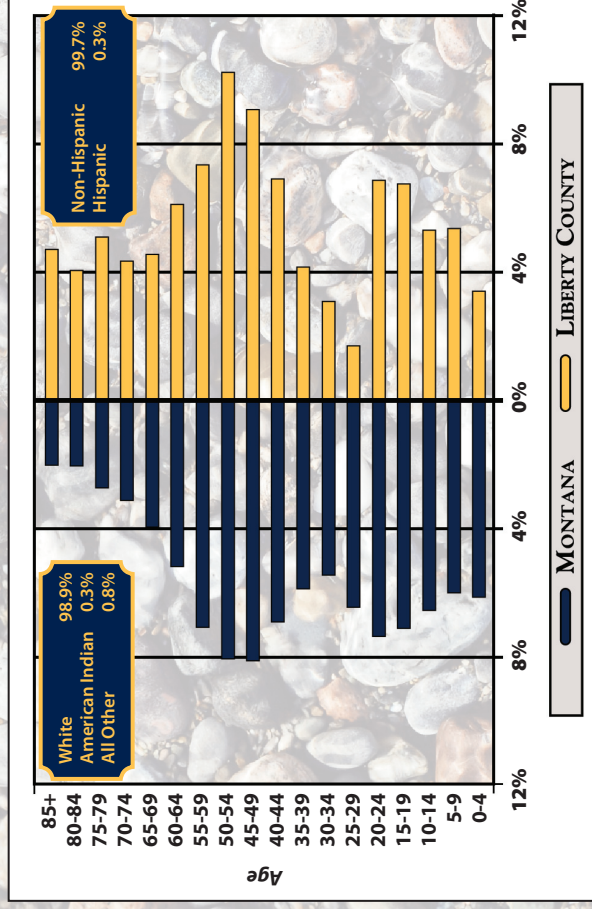
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)
* Data Not Disclosable

Population for Liberty County & Related Areas

Geography	% Change 2000-2006	Population Estimates							Census
		July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2002	July 1, 2001	July 1, 2000	April 1, 2000
Liberty County	-13.7%	1,863	1,967	2,035	2,042	2,019	2,102	2,150	2,158
Chester town	-13.1%	757	797	824	826	817	849	868	871
Balance of Liberty County	-14.1%	1,106	1,170	1,211	1,216	1,202	1,253	1,282	1,287

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Liberty County, 2006



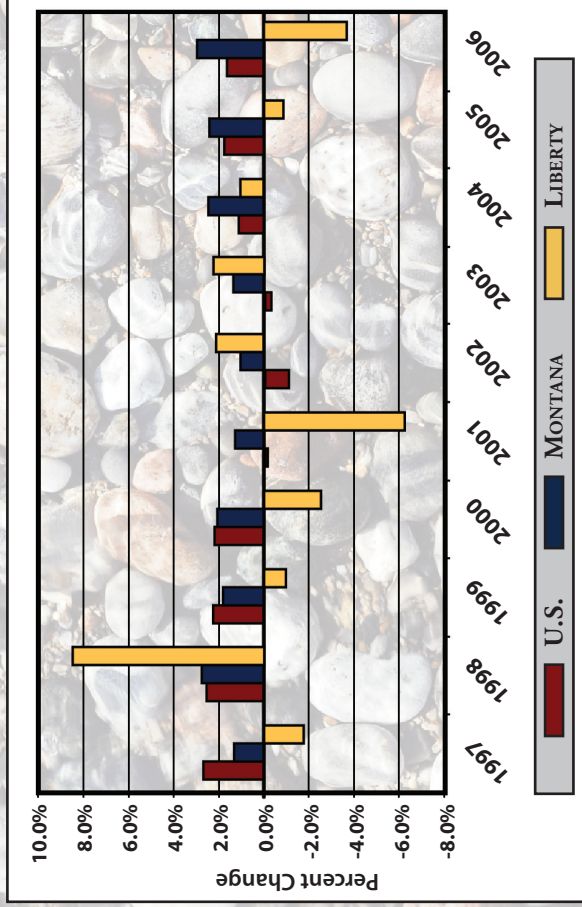
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 Population Estimates

Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Liberty County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	25.0%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	25.0%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	26.7%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	5.6%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	14.1%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	1.8%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.0%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Percent Change in Employment: 1997 to 2006 U.S., Montana, and Liberty County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 10 Private Employers in Liberty County (Based on 2nd Quarter 2007 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Grand Bar	2	Meissner Ranches	3
Jerry Martin, DDS	3	Mike's Thriftway Conoco Travel Center	4
Liberty County Hospital	6	Spud's Café	2
Liberty Drug	2	Superior Feeds	2
Liberty Electric	5	Sweet Grass Lodge	2

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW). This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

Agricultural Statistics - Liberty County

Farms	
Farms: (number)	297
Land in farms (acres)	905,171
Average size of farms (acres)	3,048
Farms by size: (number)	
Less than 1,000 acres	78
1,000 acres or more	219
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)	
Less than \$100,000	224
\$100,000 or more	73
Farms by type of organization: (number)	
Family, Individual, Partnership	195
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	102

Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested

Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)	
Cattle and calves	13,026
Hogs and pigs	15,364
Sheep and lambs	22
Horses and ponies	283
Bison	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	37,305
Crops Harvested (acres)	
Corn for grain	(D)
Corn for silage or greenchop	(D)
Wheat for grain, All	251,636
Winter wheat for grain	3,539
Durum wheat for grain	3,693
Spring wheat for grain	244,404
Barley for grain	22,357
Oats for grain	(D)
Sunflower seed, All	0
Soybeans for beans	0
Hay, hayslage, grass silage	16,943

Operator Demographics

Primary occupation: (number)	
Farming	269
Other	28
Place of residence: (number)	
On farm operated	230
Not on farm operated	67
Years on present farm: (number)	
Less than 10 years	35
10 years or more	262
Age group: (number)	
Under 55 years	145
55 years and over	152
Average age of operators: (number)	56.6

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002
(D) - Not Disclosable